Travancore State-aided Bank.

244 *MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) what amount is deposited by them in the Travancore State-aided Bank:

(*b*) whether they have conducted an enquiry into the solvency of the Bank;

(*c*) if so, whether they have ascertained what amount, if any, they may lose out of the amount due to them from the Bank;

(*d*) whether the Government have given up any part of the amount due to them;

(*e*) if so, what is the amount so given up; and

(*f*) what steps, if any, the Government are taking for the realisation of the amount due to them?

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASWAMI AIYAR: (*a*) The amount of deposit outstanding on this date is B. Rs. 2½ lakhs.

(*b*) An investigation into the affairs of the Bank was conducted by Inspectors appointed by the Government under the provisions of the Companies Regulation at the request of certain share holders.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Yes. By orders dated 20th September 1936 and 9th July 1937.

(*e*) B. Rs. 2½ lakhs. Vide also para 7 of the Financial Secretary's speech introducing the Budget for 1113. Besides this, the arrears of interest due at the rate of 5 per cent per annum up to 31st October 1936 were realised only at the rate of 1½ per cent per annum and the rate of interest from 1st November 1936 was reduced from 5 per cent to 3½ per cent.

(*f*) Under the agreement between the Government and the Bank the deposit referred to in (*a*) is to be repaid in annual payments of B. Rs 50,000 and the first year's payment is due only on 25th February 1938.

Bombay-Trivandrum Air Service.

245 *MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) what amount they have spent till now in connection with the Bombay-Trivandrum Air Service; and

(*b*) what amount, if any, the Government are giving as subsidy to the proprietors of the service?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI:

(*a*) Amount spent up to date including the expenditure on the construction of the aerodrome and hangar etc., is Rs. 60,647-19-5;

(*b*) Br. Rs. 20,000, yearly, by equal half-yearly instalments.

Motor Service in the Changanachery-Mundakayam line.

246 *MR. P. J. SEBASTIAN (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

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(*a*) the number and name of motor service existing in the Changanachery-Mundakayam line :

(*b*) how long since the service was opened ;

(*c*) whether other persons have applied for permission to conduct service in that line :

(*d*) whether permission has been accorded ; and

(*e*) if the answer to part (*d*) be in the negative, the reason for it ?

MR. R. PITCHU AIYANGAR : (*a*) The name of the motor service is not known. The G. permits for 3 buses forming the service stand in the name of Mr. P. K. Mohideen, Changanachery.

(*b*) Nine years approximately.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) & (*e*) These do not arise in view of the answer to part (*c*).

Agricultural loan to the holders of the Pachima Devaswom lands.

247 * **MR. P. J. SEBASTIAN** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the holders of the Pachima Devaswom lands have applied for agricultural loans in the Changanachery Taluk Office ;

(*b*) if so, how many ;

(*c*) whether any of such applications has been granted ; and

(*d*) if not granted, the reasons for the same ?

MR. K. GEORGE : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) One.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The applicant had only *Kuthagapattom* rights over the properties proposed to be improved.

Manufacture of salt in the State.

248 * **MR. K. T. THOMAS** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the salt manufactured in the State is sufficient for local need ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that local salt is inferior in quality to Bombay salt ;

(*c*) if so, whether and what steps have been taken to improve the quality of the local salt;

(*d*) whether the two varieties have been subjected to chemical analysis ;

(*e*) if so, the result of such analysis ; and

(*f*) whether there is not scope for increasing the production of salt in the State ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Bombay salt contains a slightly higher percentage of sodium chloride than the salt manufactured in some of the local factories.

(*c*) The licensees concerned and the factory officers have been instructed to take the necessary steps to improve the quality of salt.

(*d*) Yes.

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